

We claim:

1. A composition suitable for use as a fungicide and a bactericide comprising perillyl aldehyde, and the at least one inactive ingredient, wherein the concentration of perillyl aldehyde is sufficient to inhibit the growth of fungi and bacteria.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of perillyl aldehyde is greater than one half of one percent by weight.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of perillyl aldehyde is less than three percent by weight.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of perillyl aldehyde is between one half of one percent and three percent by weight.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of perillyl aldehyde is between one half of one percent and one percent by weight.
6. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a cream and wherein the inactive ingredients comprise the at least one alcohol.
7. The composition of claim 6, wherein the at least one alcohols are selected from the group consisting of hexadecanol, octadecanol and propanediol.
8. The composition of claim 6, wherein the inactive ingredients further comprise an acid and mineral oil.
9. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises an ointment and wherein the inactive ingredients comprise a wax and an oil.
10. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a gel and wherein the active ingredients comprise DI water and Tween 60.
11. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a liquid and the at least one inactive ingredient comprises water.
12. The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of perillyl aldehyde is sufficient to inhibit the growth of *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, *B. cepacea*, *S. typhimurum*, *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, and *B. subtilis*.
13. The composition of claim 1, wherein the concentration of perillyl aldehyde is sufficient to inhibit the growth of *A. niger* and *C. albicans*.
14. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a second active ingredient in a concentration less than the concentration of perillyl aldehyde.

15. A composition capable of inhibiting the growth of a fungus or a bacteria comprising perillyl aldehyde, and the at least one inactive ingredient, wherein the concentration of the the at least one inactive ingredient is greater than the concentration of perillyl aldehyde.
16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the composition comprises a cream and wherein the inactive ingredients comprise the at least one alcohol.
17. The composition of claim 16, wherein the at least one alcohol is selected from the group consisting of hexadecanol, octadecanol and propanediol.
18. The composition of claim 16, wherein the inactive ingredients further comprise an acid and mineral oil.
19. The composition of claim 15, wherein the composition comprises an ointment and wherein the inactive ingredients comprise a wax and an oil.
20. The composition of claim 15, wherein the composition comprises a gel and wherein the active ingredients comprise DI water and Tween 60.
21. The composition of claim 15, wherein the composition comprises a liquid and the at least one inactive ingredient comprises water.
22. The composition of claim 15, further comprising a second active ingredient in a concentration less than the concentration of perillyl aldehyde.
23. The composition of claim 22, wherein the second active ingredient comprises perillyl alcohol.
24. The composition of claim 15, further comprising a second active ingredient in a concentration approximately equal to the concentration of perillyl aldehyde.

25. A method of inhibiting the growth of bacteria and fungi by application of a composition having the at least one active ingredient and the at least one inactive ingredient, wherein the at least one active ingredient comprises perillyl aldehyde.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one inactive ingredient comprises the at least one alcohol.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the at least one alcohol is selected from the group consisting of hexadecanol, octadecanol and propanediol.
28. The method of claim 26, wherein the at least one inactive ingredient further comprise an acid and mineral oil.
29. The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one inactive ingredient comprises a wax and an oil.
30. The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one inactive ingredient comprises DI water and Tween 60.
31. The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one inactive ingredient comprises water.
32. The method of claim 25, wherein the concentration of the at least one active ingredients exceeds one half of one percent by weight.
33. The method of claim 25, further comprising a second active ingredient in a concentration approximately equal to the concentration of perillyl aldehyde.

34. A method of inhibiting the growth of fungi or bacteria by the application of a composition comprising perillyl aldehyde as an active ingredient and at least one inactive ingredient wherein the concentration of the at least one inactive ingredient is greater than the concentration of the active ingredient.

35. A method of inhibiting the growth of microbes infecting a host by application of PCO and POH in a concentration of the at least 0.5% PCO.

36. A method of inhibiting the growth of bacteria or fungi infecting a host by application of PCO and SDS.